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A Missionless Mission
Another Filipino mission is coming to the United States to ask for immediate independence. The last mission of this sort received from Secretary Baker, speaking on behalf of President Wilson, an assurance of the Wilson Administration's deep sympathy with the independence movement. This declaration was in harmony with Mr. Wilson's policy, which sought, as long ago as 1916, to sever relations between the United States and the Philippines. The President gave his support to the Clarke amendment to the Jones Philippine government bill, providing for the hauling down of the American flag and the turning over of the Philippine people in the vexed sea of Far Eastern politics.

Conditions have greatly changed since then, and public opinion as to the dangers of cutting loose new and backward nations has been powerfully modified by the experiences in world reconstruction at Paris. People more advanced than the Filipinos have been put under international mandates. Syria is a mandated territory. Armenia was to be a mandated state. Albania, formerly an independent kingdom, has had great trouble in standing alone and has now gone back under the tutelage of the League of Nations. With these examples in mind, the judgment of the world has cooled greatly toward hazardous experiments in creating politically undeveloped nationalities.

One of the first tasks of the Harding Administration has been to repair the demoralization caused in the Philippines by eight years of American rule which yielded far too much to pressure for full local control. General Wood is succeeding admirably in re-establishing Philippine finances, elevating the standards of civil government, strengthening the judiciary and broadening the work of the schools. The islands are recovering their prosperity. They enjoy a stable and efficient government under American sovereignty. The plea of the mission is not for better government but for independent government, which is certain not to be any better but to become rapidly worse.

In the hearings before the House Committee on Insular Affairs a couple of years ago representatives of the Independentista party were unwilling to say that independence would bring better practical results than a continuance of the present political relation with the United States. They deprecated, in fact, complete independence, hinting that they would prefer to remain under American control so far as foreign affairs were concerned. This attitude discloses the fatal weakness of the independence agitation. It is an agitation for larger control of the offices and of the finances by native politicians, not based on any expectation of giving the people of the islands greater security, more genuine freedom or better conditions at home.

Secretary Weeks says that he is not in favor of granting immediate independence to the Philippines and that President Harding also is not in favor of it. No time could be less opportune for a change in the character of the Philippine government. Nationality is a fad and a dream. The trip of the new mission to Washington may prove instructive to the delegates who come here. Beyond that it is only a political junker—a mission without a mission.

Molding Up New York
In a comprehensive and farseeing plan for the relief of the traction situation Mr. Hylan and his associates see only an opportunity for postponement of action and for revival of demagogic clamor in the next election. This cannot too often be repeated.

They have no remedy for the evils of the present transit system. They have not even an intelligent scheme of municipal operation. They are determined, however, that the Transit Commission shall not be allowed to do anything. And they propose to wreck, if that is possible, the new plan by obstruction. Then, reraising

the old Hearst cries, they will seek to return themselves to power. Never was a scheme more sordidly selfish. Never were political tactics more stupidly destructive. For their own petty interests they are ready to bring down a calamity on their fellow citizens—for the traction chaos that will result from failure to begin work would be nothing short of a calamity.

The Mayor has now been in office more than four years. During that time he has done nothing whatever to mend transit conditions. The municipal busses he put into operation have been of no help, and have merely added the cost of their upkeep to the mounting expense of city government. It will at best take five years, and probably ten, to get new subways in operation. Think of what postponement implies!

The constant cry against monopoly and greedy "interests" has, of course, been merely valueless noise. The real purpose is obstruction to keep a political issue alive. "Let 'em walk and crowd and scramble to get aboard if only we can hold," say Messrs. Hearst and Hylan.

With relief in sight, the city administration in effect announces that it will prevent its arrival. It's about time for Governor Miller to make another speech and sound a second and a final warning.

Of Course
The foregoing headline carries the natural comment on news from Warsaw, first published by the "Eclair" of Paris and confirmed by "The London Times." This news is that on April 8 Russia and Germany signed a military agreement under which Russia is to furnish the men and Germany the material and technical training for Russia's Red army.

The publication of the Russo-German commercial treaty in the early days of the Genoa conference was no accident. The implication was that Wirth and Rathenau had happened to get into conversation with Tschetlerin and that some one had casually remarked, "Let's agree to co-operate in a financial and economic way," and that forthwith a stenographer was called in and the document prepared and signed.

Diplomatic business is seldom done in this fashion. The making of the agreement had long been planned and the time of its publication carefully considered with a view to effect. Russia and Germany wished to make a threat and at the same time to be able to contend they had not. They wanted to intimate to assembled Europe that if proceedings at Genoa were not to their liking it must face a dual alliance, taking in Turkey as a special partner, which would recreate the balance of power system. They knew that military experts would quickly see that population power of the new alliance would surpass that of the Entente. To learn that an actual signing of a military agreement preceded the signing of the economic one should bring surprise to none.

The pretended pacifists who by their encouragement and support of Russia and Germany are doing not a little to create danger of war express their aversion to secret diplomacy, but approve it in its most sinister form; they are verbal friends of disarmament, but their acts help to make armament inevitable; they condemn special alliances which have peace and defense as their objectives and condone special alliances which have aggression and conquest as their objectives.

There is but one way to establish enduring peace, and that is to re-emerge the coalition that won the Great War. In time the defeated nations may be admitted to world fellowship, but the time will not arrive until there is reason for believing they are pacific.

The President on Plattsburg
In his message to the governors of the states urging them to bring the Plattsburg camps to the attention of the young men of the country President Harding aptly sums up the immediate benefits for those who attend. "Without any cost or military obligation to themselves," says the President, "the young men accepted for these camps will be given training which will be of inestimable value through the physical and mental development received and which will unquestionably increase their value to the nation and to the communities in which they live."

The Plattsburg movement is essentially American. There is about it nothing that smacks of the overemphasis upon the importance of the military idea which is so generally found in the European systems of training citizen soldiers. In fact, from the point of view of many professional army men it is inadequate because it does not go far enough in this direction. So complicated has become the art of war, they say, that not even the rudiments may be learned in a month's training each year for three years. But the experience of the war has shown that even the one month's course given in the original Plattsburg camps in 1915 and 1916 was invaluable when it came to the formation of the vast national army. Thanks to the few thousand men who had attended these first camps, the country was not entirely unable to cope with the problem of training millions of raw

recruits, and many of those who were of these first few thousands eventually proved to be among the most valuable leaders in the A. E. F.

The appropriation for this year's camps is enough to cover the training of 27,000 men. It is hoped that another year provision for twice this number will be made, and that thereafter 100,000 men a year will be enabled to attend.

The cost of this training system is small and the advantages to the nation are enormous. If 100,000 men a year receive the Plattsburg training the country will never again find itself as utterly unprepared as it was in April, 1917. Few will disagree with Mr. Harding that "every young man who is willing to prepare himself for the defence of his country should be given the opportunity."

Tariff Rates on Brick
The presentation to the Senate of Mr. Undermyer's memorial regarding tariff rates on building materials raises again the question of the true purpose of tariff duties. The Senate Finance Committee increased rates in the brick schedule and has asked the Senate to approve these increases.

The report of the Lockwood committee shows that in the first six months of 1920 the cost of brick delivered in New York City was \$11.25 a thousand, while the selling price was \$28.75. Mr. Undermyer complains that conditions which existed then are reappearing in the building materials industry because of the present revival of building in this city. Senator Calder, commenting on the situation here, said bluntly: "For my part, I would place bricks absolutely on the free list."

It is evident that if brick costing \$11.25 a thousand to produce can be sold to the home builder at \$28.75, there is little need of a tariff to protect the manufacturer against foreign competition. The brick makers seem perfectly competent to protect themselves, tariff or no tariff. A higher duty is either a meaningless rounding out of schedule percentages, or it is an additional anchor thrown to windward for the benefit of manufacturers who are tending to establish a monopoly in the home market.

In the Fordney and the McCumber tariff bills too little attention is being given to the balancing of interest between the domestic producer and the domestic consumer. Excess tariff rates are as much a sin against the true principle of protection as inadequate rates are. In the Republican national platform of 1916 the protective doctrine is clearly stated. The tariff plank of that platform reads in part:

"The Republican party stands now, as always, in the fullest sense for the policy of tariff protection to American industries and American labor, and does not regard an anti-dumping provision as an adequate substitute. Such protection should be reasonable in amount, but sufficient to protect adequately American industry and American labor, and be so adjusted as to prevent undue exactions by monopolies and trusts."

The Lockwood committee charges that bricks are being sold at extortionate prices. It is the Senate's duty to investigate this charge and to reduce or remove duties which might be made a cover for the exploitation of the home builder. It is all right to give the domestic manufacturer a fair duty to protect him against a foreign competitor on the cost of his finished product. But it is an injustice to give him protection on an inflated selling price.

John Daniel's Autopsy
It is just thirteen months since the gorilla John Daniel died in his bed in a room in the Madison Square Tower, while his former English nurse was hurrying across the water in the hope of saving him. He was only about four and a half years old at the time, very few other specimens ever having lived in captivity as long as he did.

Upon his death his body was subjected to an autopsy by some of the country's most prominent medical specialists.

Dr. Tilney, who made a special study of John's brain, rates it at 87 on the same scale on which he rated the brain of a two-year-old child at 91. Nearly as far behind John Daniel as John was behind the baby he placed the chimpanzee, with a rating of 83½. From discussing the shape of the brain and its relation to impulses and muscular control he passed on to a few general remarks about the habits of gorillas as observed by those who had cared for them in captivity. They showed, he said, a tendency to moroseness, but learned quickly and well, and apparently became attached to individuals.

During John Daniel's life his keeper assured correspondents that John was given sherry and occasionally whisky and soda to help ward off his tendency to melancholia. This story contradicts the theory that, while chimpanzees like to get drunk, gorillas are strict prohibitionists. But, whatever the real reason for allowing John to violate the Volstead act, he finally succumbed to the effects of melancholia.

His death has enriched science by furnishing to specialists the opportunity of further verifying a rela-

Sex in Politics
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Lady Astor tells us that she is against the "sex candidate." In the last few years that term and its companion, "sex in politics," have been heard very often, generally with a finger pointed at the League of Women Voters.

There has been "sex in politics" for hundreds of years—the male sex. Other things being equal or even unequal in a woman's favor, it is likely that she would be elected to an office, especially an important one, if a man opposed her? No. Why? Because there is still "sex in politics," the male sex. The few times a woman has been elected are the exceptions that prove the rule.

Organizations like the League of Women Voters, by calling attention to the unfair discrimination against women, are helping to remove sex from politics, not putting it in.

NORMA ZAMBONI.
Suffern, N. Y., May 20, 1922.

The Oppressed to Confer
A report from Angora—in the name there is something suggestive of search for a goat—says that there will shortly be held in Moscow a conference of all those who were not invited to Genoa. Soviet sympathizers characterize it as a conference of the oppressed peoples of the earth.

Just who these oppressed ones are and what they have on their agenda has not yet been made public; but that the conference will be conducted in much greater harmony than the one at Genoa may safely be forecast. The brethren in a manifesto fathered by Turkey are said to be at one in their conviction that they have been robbed, despoiled or deposed.

Among those who are anxious to be represented at this conference, doubtless, are William of Wied, in the name of Albania, and Ataman Semenov, on behalf of certain Siberians. Castro, of Venezuelan fame, and De Valera and Enver Bey, from the erstwhile kingdom of Van, together with representatives from Mexico, are also thought to be candidates.

Just what will be the attitude of the State Department on this subject is not yet known. But it is learned in Washington circles that considerable indignation is felt by some because the United States has not yet been officially invited. Senators Borah and France would surely like to go.

The ex-Kaiser wants a million dollars for his memoirs, which is a pretty high price for fiction by an inexperienced author.

"Civil disobedience" is proclaimed in Hayti, which seems to mean that the Haytians politely refuse to do as they're told.

Mr. Hearst specified five towns that have crime waves as great as the one in New York. He has newspapers in all of them.

Dempsey's return indicates that the Genoa conference must have started something.

A Bolshevik is a despot in a ragged suit of clothes.

More Truth Than Poetry
By James J. Montague

A Reformation
We don't get angry any more
When waiting on the wire
For four-eleven-forty-four.
The number we desire.
We do not cry in fury "Miss,
Whatever is your name,
The manager shall hear of this—
Such service is a shame."

No longer do we shake with rage,
Then in a frenzy start
And wildly rend, page after page,
The number book apart.
When summoned by a jangling bell
And, soft as summer seas,
A lady's voice makes answer:
"All right."
Won't you excuse it, please?"

For we have learned from Doctor Doyle,
Who, ever since the war,
Has spent long days of patient toil
In doing spirit lore,
That those who dwell in that queer state,
We call the great unknown,
Their messages communicate
Upon the telephone!

We fancy we are slow to scare
And quite as brave as men,
But still we do not think we'd care
To irritate a ghost.
And though we inwardly may chafe
To frame some smart rebuke,
We feel that it would not be safe
To sass a savage spook.

Unethical
If Congress discovers that General Dawes has really been saving money, he'll become still more unpopular with the members.

A Compliment
Baskinette ought to feel flattered. The last battle waged by his adversary, Mr. Borah, was with the whole League of Nations.

At Last
In New York City they have dug up an old forgotten statute which forbids burglary and highway robbery.
(Copyright by James J. Montague)

No Cure Remains for That Tired Feeling
Sir: You recently inquired as to the whereabouts of the man who used to lecture on "the stomach of the drunkard." You may be relieved to learn that he rode away on the brewer's big horses. They, too, are no longer in our midst, but you haven't noticed that, I suppose.

Really, your continual jibes at prohibition make one exceedingly tired. The Eighteenth Amendment is a part of the Constitution of the United States, you know. The world is so full of a number of funny things that one would think you might now and then find another subject to play upon.

Come, be a man! You might even try being a patriot.

S. G.

Every time we think seriously of becoming a patriot we consider how inartistic our proportions would appear in enduring bronze and relapse into 27½ per cent Americanism.

F. F. V.

The Tower
THE GIFT
I GIVE my body to the earth,
A present, joyously.
For though I pass to nothingness,
New loveliness shall be.
New moss, perhaps, beside the brook,
New notes in the clear call
Of a young bird, perhaps a strange
New flower by the fall.

I give my body to the earth;
Take of my dust, O Lord,
And build whatever loveliness
You need, to speak your word.
MABEL WILES SIMPSON.

What a relief it would be to the rest of the nation if Georgia would only secede again.

There's a Kitchenette by the Sea
Sir: It may interest some of your readers who are thinking of staying in town all summer to know that on Broadway in the Eighties is a sign displayed on a flathouse, announcing: "To Let: 2 and 3 room apartments. Lighthouse keeping." E. M. K.

Lillian Gish and Wallace Reid will be seen in "The Fatal Marriage," a screen adaptation of Tennessee's poem "Enoch Arden." The Tribune.

If the movies insist on filming the classics let 'em, we say. But, if they are going to change the original titles as well as everything else, how is the spectator ever going to identify the film play? Maybe that is not necessary, though. And we are certain that "The Fatal Marriage" has things to recommend it as a title that "Enoch Arden" has not. It's only a matter of time, we suppose, before we read the following:

Frital Dolores and Montague Arbuthnot have completed their superb film "Madness and Matricide," a photoplay based on Shakespeare's drama "Hamlet."

Lily de Lys and Peyton Malinwaring are to appear in the cinema feature of the century, "Sin's Sinkhole," a film production of Dante's "Inferno."

Beatrice Van Rensselaer and Guy de Mont are at work upon "Sold to Satan," a screen version of Goethe's play, "Faust."

Olivia Love and Tancred Delaine will be seen next week in "Lustful Lucifer," a motion picture inspired by Milton's "Paradise Lost."

Yvette Meredith and Clifford Armitage are in the midst of "Helen Michavanes," a picturization of Homer's "Iliad."

FOREST SONG
Twice in the circling of a year
Softly the woodlands chant a tune,
Softly, and charm the sleeping ear
Of memory awake.

Too soon
Shadows of dead limbs hush a song
Brief as the fall of leaf to ground,
On the faint strains are lost among
The melody which is life.

Yes, sound!
Lisp to the Spring your song, nor dream
Ever a voice sung plainer. So
Tinkles a silver tumbling stream
Or breathes a sleeping child.

But oh,
Sing the same song; cold minor urge
When the ead brown and dying red
Carpet your floors. It is the dirge
Of muted trumpets for a dead.

SAMUEL A. WOOD, Jr.
With our sentence nearly five-eighths served, we find our shoulders have grown somewhat calloused beneath the yoke. We've even become inured to the cries of "Pretty soft!" that continue to greet our entrance and exit. When you stop trying to think up snappy come-backs you find that these don't bother you so much. And, confidentially, it is pretty soft.

Yet sometimes, on a day like this and when we get as far down toward the end of the column as this, we begin to wonder whether this much-touted notice that a columnist attracts isn't 99.7 per cent bunk. One-third of the customers continue to address us as "Editor of The Coming Tower," though this has not been its name for some eight months, and another third keep on sending in their contributions to "E. P. A., editor of The Tower," which is at once flattering and discouraging. Sometimes, when confronted with such evidence of humanity's power of adaptability, we sort of doubt this evolution theory.

For the Nation's Children
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Now that the decision of the Supreme Court has cleared the way for action let us be worthy. The young of a nation are a national trust in precedence of every other issue that of the child labor amendment must pulse through our thought from waking to sleeping. A people which fails millions of its young, the America of tomorrow, in their emergency has no right to stand erect!

DAISY S. GILL.
Douglaston, L. I., May 20, 1922.

Tax Exemption Constitutionality
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: There is a constitutional prohibition against the Legislature passing laws granting realty and personality tax exemption.

Notwithstanding such, at least twenty tax exemption bills become law every year and there must be at least a thousand of such laws in force exempting hundreds of millions of realty from taxes. Are they constitutional or not?

I ventured to predict from the start that all the rent laws would be declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

The trouble with the opponents of all these laws, and they are largely in the majority, is that they don't understand the attributes of government and they make a fetish of the Federal and states' constitutions because they hap-

pen to be written. They forget that constitutions were made for the people and not the people for constitutions.

STEWART BROWNE,
President United Real Estate Owners' Association.
New York, May 20, 1922.

"While There Is Life"
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The strangest thing I have seen in the papers lately is the story about surgeons hurrying from New York to operate on a man condemned to death at Sing Sing. I think if they had consulted the victim he would rather have died from appendicitis than go to the electric chair.

E. C. K.
Elizabeth, N. J., May 20, 1922.

The Box Midge
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The recently introduced insect called the box midge or box miner is becoming generally abundant and injurious in regions where box hedges are common, judging from various reports coming to hand this spring.

The mischief is caused by fragile, yellow midges or small flies which issue directly from the leaves of the box the latter part of May or early in June (probably the latter part of May on Long Island this year) and later deposit eggs in the leaves.

One of the most successful methods of controlling this insect is to spray the box foliage with a molasses solution, four pounds of molasses to fifty gallons of water, at the time the first



The End of Fort Washington

By Eleanor Booth Simmons

Fort Washington succumbed to the British November 15, 1776. It was triumphantly repossessed by the Americans November 25, 1783. It is now suffering a second and final defeat at the hands of Modern Progress.

Of course, in view of the great importance of extending Pinchurst Avenue north and west, respectively, it would be unreasonable to object merely because the road makers are destroying the last traces of the citadel which was the scene of the worst and the most heroically resisted disaster to American arms during the War for Independence.

Sentimental persons have pestered the city authorities with petitions to acquire the three or four acres, which, there on the highest point of Manhattan Island, comprised Fort Washington and to preserve them as a public park. They thought it would be a good thing for our children and our children's children to be able to trace the defenses so laboriously created by the patriots of 76, to have a visible reminder of what they endured for us. The city has consistently turned a deaf ear to these representations and is now being guided by the practical sense of property owners who know what is good for our growth.

One cannot help wondering what George Washington thinks of us, if he knows. History records that Washington "wept like a child" when from the Palisades of Jersey, through a telescope, he witnessed the butchery of his garrison by the Hessians. Does his ghost weep (supposing that ghosts are around here and that ghosts can weep; what does Sir Arthur Conan Doyle say on that point?)—does

his ghost weep to see the destruction of the fort that bears his name? Surely, if spirits do walk, now if ever those doughty fighters will be haunting the theater of their earthly achievements. The coast is clear there after midnight, at present. The laborers and the sweating teams go at the end of the day, and even those foolish fanatics of the New York Historical Society who work away with their shovels to retrieve what Revolutionary relics they can before the place is hopelessly asphalted don't stay after dark. Soon the place will be populous and commonplace. Flappers and dawdlers and men in stiff shirt fronts and pumps will be coming home from the theater over the ground where our troops, on that fateful November day in 76, laid down their arms before an overwhelming force, and filed out between a double line of Hessians to be herded down to the horrors of the Sugar House and the British prison ships. But now it is dark and silent by night, an excellent spot for the meeting of the ghosts.

And what august shades may be there! Colonel Marston, for one, the commander of the fort who defied the British general, Sir William Howe, with that ringing message: "Attuated by the most glorious cause that mankind ever fought in, I am determined to defend this post to the very last extremity." And General Putnam, who built the fort, and Colonel Buxton, who lost his life in its defense. Perhaps, too, the Hessian Lieutenant general, Wilhelm von Knyphausen, comes with his German troops in the shadowy counterparts of their lofty caps and bristling mustaches, their dappled waistcoats, their breeches and high gaiters. Hamlet's father's ghost appeared in all his "warlike form," so

midges begin to emerge. The appearance of the insects can be ascertained by looking for delicate yellowish or transparent "skins" or "casts" protruding from slight swellings on the under surface of the leaf. Each one of these means that one of the small flies has escaped. It is important to make the first spraying shortly after the flies begin to issue and to keep the foliage sticky for at least a week, preferably two, repeating the treatment if the molasses is washed off.

E. P. FELL, State Entomologist.
New York, May 17, 1922.

Prohibitive Glove Duties
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The letter from Emil Uetzi regarding the outrageously high duties imposed on women's leather gloves by the pending tariff bill illustrates the methods by which tariffs are made without consideration of the wishes of the consumer.

It is well known to the members of the Senate Committee on Finance, who inserted these prohibitive duties on the leather goods schedule, that the kind of gloves on which the rates have been increased more than 100 per cent are not now made in this country, and will not be made even under the embargo put upon foreign gloves. The real purpose of the glove-exclusion duties is to force the American glove trade to use a different kind of glove than that to which they have long been accustomed.

WHIDDEY GRAM.
New York, May 17, 1922.

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